

Amendment to the Claims

Please cancel claims 30, 31, 32, 33, 38, 39, 40 and 41, without prejudice.

25. An isolated protein encoded by an open reading frame (ORF) in a hepatitis E virus (HEV) genome, said protein prepared by

(a) introducing into a host cell an expression vector comprising a polynucleotide sequence that is greater than 70% identical with the sequence presented as SEQ ID NO:6; and

(b) expressing said protein.

26. The protein of claim 25, wherein said expression vector is a viral expression vector.

27. The protein of claim 25, wherein said protein is a fragment of said isolated protein having a length of at least about 30 amino acids.

28. The protein of claim 25, wherein said genome has the sequence presented as SEQ ID NO:6.

29. The protein of claim 25, wherein said genome has the sequence presented as SEQ ID NO:10.

30. Canceled

31. Canceled

32. Canceled

33. Canceled

34. The protein of claim 25, wherein said open reading frame is the second open reading frame (ORF2) of said HEV genome.

35. The protein of claim 34, wherein said protein has the sequence presented as SEQ ID NO:8.

36. The protein of claim 34, wherein said expression vector is a viral expression vector.

37. The protein of claim 36, wherein said protein is a fragment of said isolated protein having a length of at least about 30 amino acids.

38. Canceled

39. Canceled

40. Canceled

41. Canceled